

# MACLEAN'S

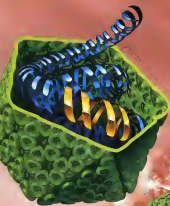
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JANUARY 31 2005

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## BEYOND THE OLD CLICHÉS

Forget the flag flap: the real issue at stake is the future of rural Newfoundland

**DURING OUR** most recent visit to Newfoundland, in early 2004, my wife and I stayed in a hotel that offers the best service we've had anywhere, as does a restaurant the equal of most in Toronto, and she shopped at several boutiques that would sit comfortably alongside the biggest places in Montreal and Vancouver. Since then, a friend in Toronto—a business associate whose network is in the mill-mo—has pulled up a stool and

headed home to St. John's for a better quality of life. Good thing he has the money, real estate prices in the city are skyrocketing. The cliché, in short, of Newfoundland as a poverty-stricken, hand-to-mouth place from which all the best people rush to escape are now well past their expiry dates. On the other hand, when we were in St. John's in late June of the year before, there were icebergs in the harbour and the weather at nearby Cape Spear was so cold that we both had to buy fuzzy pullovers. You have to be taught to endure Newfoundland's weather—an old cliché absolutely does ring true.

We know how hard it is to see ourselves as effects see us. Another challenge is how to react when others describe us in much the same terms we use to describe ourselves. Newfoundlanders used to be the first to make fun of themselves, and were happy to live the rest of the country laugh with them. Good: the ability to laugh at a laugh at your own expense is generally an expression of self-confidence. Now that's changed, says Premier Danny Williams, speaking at a gift with the federal government and many other Canadians when he headed down the country's flag (from provincial government) building on Dec. 22 (page 24 of this issue). He didn't lose many friends at home by doing so—and hasn't made many elsewhere.

Outside of the province, there's a new seriousness in some places, a feeling that Newfoundland should be boarded to external forces by grassroots over the equidistant payments they've worked over the years. And within the four-walled Newfoundland and Mary Walsh's new CBC TV show, *Witching, Mating & Gossiping*, a comedy about a middle-class family in a small Newfoundland community. After discussing more

“We have too much to learn and gain from our youngest, coolest province to allow it to wither and die”

than 4,700 viewer responses, with some Newfoundlanders accusing it of perpetuating stereotypes about drinking and bad work habits. There was little that Newfoundlanders haven't said about themselves before it's the mood that's changed.

Pulling the Canadian flag down was, too

point, Danny Williams may not have fully considered, an act that shocked all Canadians, not just the federal government. It also demeaned the efforts of thousands of Newfoundlanders in the military. But you can hardly blame Williams because of the stakes beyond St. John's, hundreds of communities fear for their future. As Richard Gwyn wrote last week, what's really at stake is the survival of rural Newfoundland, which is “the crucible and cradle of its poverty, its songs, its stories, its tragedies, its passions, its beauties.” That's why everyone should view Williams as a better deal than has now come before the inevitable ongoing intergovernmental bickering, we all have too much to learn and gain from our youngest, coolest province to allow it to wither away and die.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

original@newsworld.com or contact on The Editor's letter

## MACLEAN'S

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## Editor

Anthony Wilson-Smith

## Executive Editor

Michael Ondaatje

## Managing Editor

David G. McLean

## Deputy Managing Editor

David G. McLean

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## THE MAIL

“While Ottawa didn't know what to do about the tsunami at first, individuals rose to great heights by voluntary donations. It felt great being Canadian.” —SARAH SHARMA, Calgary

## Weighing in on diet fads

Thank you for your articles on the benefits of healthy eating (“New diets,” *Witching, Mating & Gossiping*, Jan. 17). I've been a vegetarian for more than 20 years and I have never felt healthier. Once I removed meat, eggs and dairy products from my diet, I lost weight, my energy skyrocketed and the asthma that had plagued me since childhood almost completely disappeared. Aside from the many health benefits, I had great knowing that I've ended my support for the annual blood rampage on factory farms and in slaughterhouses.

Josh Sells, Toronto Park, Ont.

I was very disappointed that you presented a one-sided view of the Atkins approach to weight loss by not asking for input from people who have been successful on it. In February 4, 2003, at age 52 and at five foot 10, I weighed 280 lb. and I felt terrible. Then I read a diet book by Dr. Robert Atkins and started my lifestyle changes. Ten months later, here are the results: I lost 11 lb. a month for a total of 110 lb. I now walk a minimum of one hour a day, 365 days a year. I went to the doctor in April 2004, and she kept telling me “keep doing it.” “Whatever you've been doing, keep doing it.” I now eat more bread, more fruit and share an apple pie and ice cream with my wife once a while, but I will never go back to the way things were before. The diet was easy to follow—it's really hard if you don't understand how it works and doesn't want to change.

Greg Clark, Aurora, Ont.

I think you did the Zone due a great disservice, lumping it in with the Atkins diet when, in fact, it has all of the characteristics your readers may be desirous in a healthy diet. Low-fat healthy proteins with limited saturated fat, low glycemic carbs in the form of fruits and vegetables, including limited quantities of whole wheat breads and pasta, and adequate healthy fats, olive oil, omega-3s and nuts. These meals and two snacks a day sound healthy to me—and I know that it works.

Ellen O'Murphy, Ottawa

## | Your Health



## NEW DIETS

After Atkins, what's next?

BY DR. ROBERT WILSON, MD

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who are just one corner of processed meat (the amount in one slice of Bologna) three days a week, even 50 per cent more likely to develop colorectal cancer. Other research has demonstrated that vegetarians enjoy a much lower risk of this deadly disease.

Amy Jay Karlan, Washington

## Reversing the wave

I have just read Steve Maud's essay “Politics of death” (*All Business*, June 17) and I totally agree with his critical comments on government aid giving to less developed nations. Why has the West not taken the same notice of the world's other disasters, especially in Africa? I keep thinking of Stephen Lewis, who must be disheartened and agonizing over what he has done to make the citizens and governments of the developed countries show similar compassion and generosity to overcome the ravages of AIDS, other diseases, poverty and displacement from wars on our continent. The tragedy and destruction of Lewis and the many other individuals and organizations striving to make a difference in combating tragedies that currently prevail in Africa must not be allowed to fall from the radar screen of humanitarian relief efforts.

Robert Wornell, Cornwall, N.S.

We have grown tough now, along with the rest of the world (“Inside the relief effort,” *Covers*, Jan. 17). Let the people in Southeast Asia start to rebuild, and let us take care of our own problems. Here we have the elderly waiting on stretchers in hallways of hospitals, people who are willing all night long to see a doctor and people who are just going to the doctor because the doctors are too busy to see them. We have people here in Canada who do not have homes. It is time we started to take care of our problems first.

Laverne Rose, Columbia, B.C.

Wait a minute, Mr. Postman. I want to thank Mary Jurgens for her column “The small mind question” (*Witching, Mating & Gossiping*, Jan. 17). Postman's management and journalistic skills, in my view, are nothing short of brilliant. I am not absolutely necessary. I can call long distance anywhere in Canada and talk for five to 20 minutes for the same rate as mailing a letter. I cannot understand why it should take several days for a letter to go from Toronto to Montreal, when flying it

crafting, are instant and significantly less expensive. Given all of the other choices available to Canadians, I suspect that may be why only 32 submissions were received in response to the proposed postage increase.

**Julie Wack, Toronto**

### Glory on the high seas

Rudeo to Nicholas Greenfield's history of our navy for missing a pressing and potential issue that seems to have lived out its 15 minutes in the spotlight ("Applauded foolhard," *History*, Jan. 18). The simple truth is that Canadians like because our military equipment is not restricted to adequate standards. The HMS Chicoutout incident was a tragedy, as well as a national embarrassment. It's a 16-year-old and no military expert, but I am sick and tired of hearing about the legends of Canada's failed glory days as a powerful nation. How long are we to continue living in this current state of mediocrity and denial?

**Justin Fu, Toronto**

The article about the rise and fall (and rise and fall) of the Royal Canadian Navy shows how delicate the balance might be for our continued effectiveness. There is one fix, however, that needs to be revisited: you say the RCN, at the end of the Second World War, was the world's third largest. In fact, it was the third largest Allied navy.

**Tom MacLellan, Halifax**

### A part of a pastime

My parents gave a subscription to *Maclean's* for Christmas. It was with joy that I discovered that my very first issue had an article about my new favourite pastime—baiting ("Baitish waffles," *Life*, Jan. 17). I'm one of the twentysomethings you mention who has a high stress, high-energy day job so, far as baiting is a wonderful, relaxing retreat. This Christmas, people give hats and scarves. Next Christmas, I'm hoping I can run some beer and make some socks.

**Amy Friedman, Thunder Bay, Ont.**

### Firing up the cold debate

Couldn't look like a cheap source of energy if we ignore the costs of pollution ("Will coal bury Kyoto?" *Environment*, Jan. 17). These costs may be difficult to determine, but they are most definitely not zero. The economy-vs.-environment arithmetic is wrong. The economy is the environment.



Our navy's effectiveness hangs in 'a delicate balance'

When the very real costs and liabilities of environmental damage are excluded from the analysis, the balance sheet doesn't balance, and the so-called bottom line is nowhere near the bottom. When all the long-term costs and benefits of an energy source are included in the price of that energy, we will be able to make informed decisions.

**Deane Winkler, Nova Scotia, A.C.**

The Kyoto Protocol is already dead. In fact, it was stillborn. It should be buried forthwith to clear the way for a protocol with better prospects for a successful outcome. Kyoto offered a 20th century approach to an issue, climate change, that is distinctly different from such earlier issues as acid rain and depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer that were successfully addressed by governments and industry working together during the past half century. That traditional approach, now being followed by Ottawa, does not adequately recognize that climate change is driven by the consumption of energy by 33 million Cana-

dians and another three to four billion citizens of our earth. Until significant numbers of Canadian citizens are actively engaged in changing their lifestyles, targeting major industrial emitters will not get us very far.

**John McNeill, Ottawa**

### The calm before the storm

I just read with disappointment that Anthony Wilson Smith will be leaving *Maclean's*. Wilson Smith's editor's column was the first I ever read in the magazine for its down-to-earth, insightful and unadorned tone. With all the bad and bad news that can often be read in the following pages, his column was the calm before the storm.

**Chris Dyke, Ottawa, Ont.**

I just wanted to let Anthony Wilson Smith know that he should be proud of what he has accomplished in helping to make *Maclean's* a more readable magazine, balanced with hard news and items of general interest.

**Andrew Carlin, Montreal**

### You gotta have friends

It's too bad that Barbara Wolkens, in her otherwise excellent essay ("Is anybody there?" Jan. 10), didn't deal more with the room of loneliness. Older generations, such as her parents, were raised in more sociable environments while new sociable environments, the high cost of living and sprawling subdivisions have led to solitary lifestyles.

**Spyridon Nishchew, Toronto**

It was intriguing to read Barbara Wolkens' account of adult loneliness, largely because my digital generation suffers at the opposite end of the scale. Our obsession with connectivity, propelled by cellphones and instant messaging, bubble social networks that are more vast and complex than ever before. Individual relationships can easily suffer and the merits of personal interaction can get lost in the high-speed shuffle. Wolkens might be interested to know that her worries are abundant of solitude could find a hefty price among as socially heretic twentysomethings.

**Chris Christie, Waterloo, Ont.**



Dove is the #1 dermatologist recommended brand. It cleanses and gently dries, leaving skin soft and smooth. That's the beauty of Dove.

“Kyoto is already dead. In fact, it was stillborn. Now, we need a stronger protocol with better prospects.”

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## MACLEAN'S



## MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



### A PASSION FOR DESIGN

When Maclean's Deputy Art Director Gary Hall (above, right) graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) in the late 1980s, he never imagined that he'd return one day as a teacher.

"I never anticipated it," says Hall, who is teaching a third-year class in editorial design at the Toronto-based institution this year. "And at times it still feels a little strange to be standing at the front of the classroom, instead of sitting back with the other students."

That said, he finds the experience exhilarating. "I'm enjoying it a great deal. It's so rewarding to see how the students apply the principles they're learning in their own work."

Adds Hall, who has spent almost 20 years in the design field, the last four with Maclean's: "It's also a good opportunity to hone my own skills and see how my practices measure up against what I'm teaching. And it offers me a chance to give something back to the design profession and to represent Maclean's in the academic community."

The two-semester class is designed to teach students how to apply design principles to problem-solving in a fast-paced and rigorous environment. In many ways, that mirrors Hall's job at Maclean's, where his work with the magazine's design team often involves instruction.

Hall has several characteristics that make him an ideal instructor, says Maclean's Art Director Dorena Impegn. "Gary is thoughtful and passionate about his work, and those qualities, combined with his patience, make him a great person to guide young people embarking on design careers."

Help shape what's inside Maclean's by registering as a member of the Maclean's Advisory Panel at [www.macleans.ca/qa](http://www.macleans.ca/qa). For further information, about this website contact [bf@editions.macleans.ca](mailto:bf@editions.macleans.ca)

## UPFRONT

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### Tsunami | Needed: a warning system for the next big one

Life is nowhere near back to normal—the latest death toll in fact may be as high as 225,000. But many more are survivors. Like this woman in Nagapattinam in southern India, are making a stab at some sort of routine. On the international front, routine resumed in the form of bureaucratic firefighting as developed countries, at a conference in Japan, put forward as many diver-

ging proposals for a consistent early warning system in the Indian Ocean that the UN was forced to take over the project. It is helping to have a spin-off and naming within 18 months. But there are still meetings planned to develop a further consensus, and Japan, for one, was so frustrated that officials announced they will conduct their own warning system to the region right away.

**Quote of the week** | "Because he's hiding," U.S. President **GEORGE W. BUSH** explains to the Washington Post why Osama bin Laden has not yet been found

### ScoreCard



**LOWE NOT WAR**  
U.S. military layoff with short 1994 plan to create additional new tanks. Would make every soldier's irremovable to each other. Planners hoped "debatable" result would not be possible. But what if ending gas hit U.S. troops? Result could be... price.



**SCALES OF JUSTICE**  
Guilty plea for poaching fish sets curious precedent for Newfoundland. Carl English, three-year ban on eating salmon. But where to find grounds for appeal? Charter of Rights or Canada's Food Guide?



**PRIMER**  
U.S. regular looking at TV viewers complaints over weekly 11 O'clocks as Greece celebrated its ancient culture. Of-and Greeks were America's ancient starting "culture war" led of this versus band of the jungle show? Not a fair fight.



**CHIPS W' REED**  
Panic of floods left sightless no longer need water. Can buy drinks in account with micro-chips implanted in their arms. Unlabeled bar tabs not a worry if chips are down, staff knows where to get poult of fish.





of thousands of penguin chicks whose mothers now have to trudge up to 180 km to open water and back to deliver food.

## CANADA

**SGRO** Harjit Singh, the pizza parlour owner whose allegations led to the resignation of immigration minister Judy Sgro, is to be deported Feb. 2. Singh has been waging an almost 17-year fight to stay in Canada. His three children, now adults, were granted asylum and citizenship. Recently, the two sons pleaded guilty to a sophisticated credit card scam in which the father was also implicated. In a motion exclusively filed in Ottawa, Judge Justice found a number of blank immigration forms and altered Indian passports.

**SGY MARRIAGE** Toronto Cardinal Alopius Ambrosio asked Ottawa to invoke the notwithstanding clause in the Charter of Rights to preserve heterosexual marriage for at least five more years. Earlier, outspoken Calgary Bishop Fred Henry sparked an outcry when he said Parliament should curtail homosexuality in its own pornography. Keeping up the pressure, the Conservative party launched ads to exhibit police prosecuting traditional marriage.



**KYOTO** Ottawa might allow large industrial polluters to put their environmental money into longer-term R & D rather than use greenhouse gas emissions to the full extent envisioned by the Kyoto treaty, leaked cabinet documents said. The new position caps a week of confusion on the Kyoto issue as cabinet ministers gave differing accounts of whether Canada would meet the 2012 deadline to cut climate warming gases.

**JEWISH SCHOOLS** Quebec's Liberal government was forced to pull back on promises of full financing to accredited private Jewish schools after a poll found only five per cent supported the idea. Most complained it would draw money away from the public system. Premier Jean Charest was forced to clarify charges the pledge stemmed from a fundraising drive for his Liberals in the Jewish community.

**CONSENT** Arguing his own case in a Montreal court, a 52-year-old pastor in a Christian sect was told he did nothing illegal when he married a 30-year-old girl five years ago. Quebec law set the age of marriage at 16 in



2001, which was after the two wed. The man, whose name can't be published to protect the identity of the girl, is arguing that Canadian common law allows couples of any age to marry.

**TICK-TOCK** The two main anti-spam bills, introduced by Conservative MP Bill C-58, are still in committee. But their number one priority is to get them passed as soon as possible. The bills are still in committee, but their number one priority is to get them passed as soon as possible.

**DEBT** Because of low interest rates, easy credit and rising real estate values, Canadian debt is on a steep climb. The Bank of Canada says the total amount of Canadian debt is now over \$1.5 trillion, up from \$1.2 trillion in 2004.

**SMOKING** The anti-tobacco lobby remains on a roll. The Supreme Court upheld Saskatchewan's law banning the display wall of cigarettes in corner stores—in fact, in any store allowing minors. But Alberta's Ralph Klein awarded a court of dissent in the ban on cigarette tobacco. He said cities can legislate smoking bans if they want, but a province-wide prohibition "doesn't do a damn thing" to change the behaviour of people he says.

## HAIL TO THE CHIEF

They could have danced all night. There were 14 head state funeral services for the late George W. Bush and his wife Laura. And there were 14 head state funeral services for the late George W. Bush and his wife Laura. And there were 14 head state funeral services for the late George W. Bush and his wife Laura.

Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



## IT'S TIME TO DAM THE SPAM

Canada is too far behind other nations in the battle to curtail unwanted email

THEY ALMOST got it done last fall with some, purportedly from Rogers Communications, nudged around my ever-multiplying queue of emails. Email access, it seemed, would be interrupted. But I could go on Internet life, sign in with my password and have access anyway. In retrospect, I was foolish to even read it. The message was fraudulent. Welcome to the world of really bad spam.

Can's only 11 years ago that two American immigration lawyers brazenly advertised their services on online message boards, providing a taste of the dirty work they did. Today, service providers estimate the volume of spam at anywhere from two-thirds to 80 per cent of all email traffic. And Canada, which is only belatedly coming to grips with the enormity of the problem, is the fourth largest source of those junky emails. The Information Technology Association of Canada says Nortel Networks is deluged with 5,000 to 15,000 spam messages each day, despite spam filters, experts say each message costs \$1 in lost productivity. The government has been reluctant to step in to help victims as it has to ensure responses to every 500,000 emails can mean thousands of dollars of profit.

Little wonder the problem is getting worse. "As increasing proportion of spam is linked with viruses and trojans [which hijack computers, enabling spammers to use their own's computers] and identity theft," says Dennis Tytkin, telecom policy expert at the CRTC, which is chairing the best anti-spam practices among 30 anti-trusted members—and shutting them with

less-developed nations. "Spam is becoming more dangerous and more costly." In the world of sounder machines and email-enabled harvesting systems, the solutions are as obvious as the deliciously thick problems. Tory Senator Donald Oliver will reintroduce his private member's bill to deter spam early next month. (That dome bill, which would establish a no-spam list for consumers, may actually pass.) And, after a year-long study, a high profile expert task force will present its own action plan to the federal Industry Department this May.

Meanwhile, Ottawa has asked grey and white advice bits for individuals. The least not currently a grapple, but unfortunately, with the need to lead a common standard to substantiate email, that is, between the sender and the recipient address is legitimate. Last October, our law enforcement agencies and private sector groups were part of a 27-nation London Action Plan establishing informal links to combat spam fraud.

Most importantly, well after the United States, EU and Australia, we are finally tackling our legal loopholes. The University of Ottawa's commerce law professor Michael Gidycz notes that existing laws such as privacy legislation could handle many spam complaints—if they are enforced. But we still need tougher penal provisions for offenders. Internet service providers should be able to sue spammers—and secure statutory damages. And laws that could deter misleading email headers should be tightened. "If the private sector cannot deal with it, then government has to get involved," says Goss, a member of Ottawa's task force. "And we are now moving them quickly." Spam will never be totally eliminated that, speaking in a more victim, Ottawa cannot move fast enough to strengthen our legal authority.

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer, mary.janigan@toronto.ontario.ca

## Passages

**SENTENCED** Shimon G. Mordechai, the 79-year-old who befriended a Jewish elementary school in Montreal last April, was given 49 months in prison for what the judge called an act of terrorism. Because of his in detention, he has two years still to serve.

**APPOINTED** Fossilized, 71, who advocates racial prejudice and disavows racism to help win four Grey Cup with the Edmonton Eskimos and Calgary Stampeders, will be Alberta's new lieutenant governor. He replaced the much-admired Lou Hobbie, who died earlier this month from cancer.

**RAMPED** Hockey dad Bradley Desnoches, 42, is banned from watching his nine-year-old son play this season and the next. In Greater Toronto Hockey League trials after allegedly choking a coach in a dispute over ice time. He also faces criminal charges.

**DIED** His life spanned nearly the entire period of Ukrainian settlement in Canada. Archbishop Wasyly Fedak, the head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada, died in Winnipeg on Jan. 28. He was 95.

**SELECTED** American-born conductor and pianist William Edes, 40, will be the new music director of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. His three-year term begins in June after he finished as guest conductor with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland.

**DIED** Douglas Marshall, a former Maclean's staff writer who went on to write film and co-authored the periodical *Doors* in Canada, died of liver disease in Toronto. He was 67.

**DIED** American actress Virginia Mayo, a former channel girl whose filly beauty propelled her to Hollywood stardom in the 1940s and '50s, died in L.A. at 84.





Anniversaries | KEN TAYLOR

## 'IT WAS A CANADIAN INITIATIVE FROM START TO FINISH'

**WHEN STUDENT RADICALS** seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979, taking more than 60 staff hostages, as lucky American citizens found friends in a time of great need. Canadian ambassador Ken Taylor and his staff took them in, hid them for months from hostile authorities, and helped engineer a daring escape from Iran. Hailed as Canada's Scarlet Pimpernel, Taylor became an overnight celebrity, especially south of the border. This Jan. 28 marks the 25th anniversary of the flight from danger.

**Do you ever get sick of talking about the "Canadian Caper"?**  
No, it's got many angles to it. Our life went

on, yet it's always with you. Particularly in New York City, where I live, people here have long memories.

**You used to get stopped in the streets and airports. Does that still happen?**  
On occasion. It's a long time ago, really. Now, it's mostly those who were 15 and up at the time who recall it.

**Do you have any contact with the American hostages or "houseguests" you sheltered?**  
Primarily with Bruce Langton, who was the American chargé d'affaires in Tehran, and was held at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. The others—we exchange cards at Christmas and have the occasional reunion. The last was about six or seven years ago.

**In recent years, there have been revelations about the CIA's role in planning the escape. Did Canada get too much credit?**

**No or all?** The CIA certainly played a crucial role and that you never denied. The discussion is the idea that it handled the escape in its entirety. It was a Canadian initiative from start to finish. The CIA became very much involved about halfway through and, in consultation with Ottawa, set up the framework for us to depart.

**You were once quoted as saying you wouldn't go back to Iran "even for dinner." Do you still feel the same way?**

Iran has evolved. But they are still very sensitive about passports, and entering and exiting the country. It would just be self-indulgent if I went back. I have good memories of Iran and I think I'll leave it at that.

**Do you think the Americans learned anything from their experience in Iran?**

I think the American view of the Middle East has matured, though when you're in a true war scenario, you wonder how profound the lesson has been. It suggested that the U.S. is difficult, or maybe inefficiently, doable in the world today. Sometimes entirely in a self-interested fashion, sometimes to what it feels is everyone's benefit.

**Do you still have those big glasses you wore 25 years ago?**

I was mostly looking back at some pictures and one those "headlights" I used to wear, and got nostalgic. So I went and rummaged around in some drawers and found them and put them on. My prescription has changed so I couldn't see very well. But maybe I'll revert to them for a while to see if anybody recognizes me. JONATHAN GATHOUSE



## 2008 COURAGE TO COME BACK Awards

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The Courage to Come Back Awards recognize people who have overcome the challenges of living with mental illness and addictions during their lifetime.

If you know someone who has overcome the challenges of living with mental illness and/or addictions and who has chosen to use his or her experience

to help others, we invite you to nominate him or her for a Courage to Come Back Award.

For more information, visit [www.courageaward.ca](http://www.courageaward.ca). There, you'll find the nomination form, rules, and more. The award ceremony will be held at the National Health Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on Oct. 11-13, 2008. For more information, call 813-855-8140 or visit [www.courageaward.ca](http://www.courageaward.ca). Nominations will be received by Sunday February 17, 2009.

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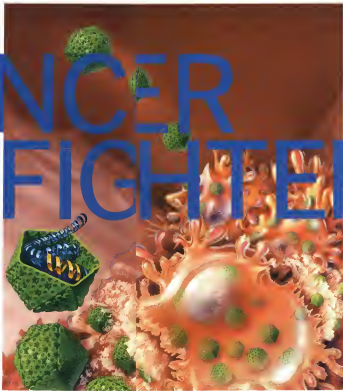
# CANCER FIGHTERS

The latest drugs are smart-bombing tumours, but the target is still elusive

**ANYONE WHO'S PLAYED** a shoot-'em-up video game knows one of the secrets to survival is a powerful and varied arsenal. It's the same with cancer. There are more than 200 different types affecting humans, and scientists expect no single cure will ever be found. That's why patients need all the bullets they can get, maybe even harnessing ordinary viruses—unlikely allies though they may be.

In 1998, Patrick Lee, working out of the University of Calgary, published a groundbreaking study which showed that a common cold virus, called the reovirus, is capable of killing cancer cells. In the process, he helped open what is fast becoming the newest front in the war against one of the world's most deadly diseases. The plan works because the reovirus hijacks the wayward cell's internal, overstimulated growth cycle and makes copies of itself instead. Once the viral particles reach a critical mass, they burst the cell. Bye-bye cancer. "A cancer cell makes this deal with the devil, as it were, to become immortal," explains John Bell, senior scientist at the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre. "As such, it also becomes vulnerable to infection by viruses."

The common cold cures cancer—if only things were so simple. The problem is it takes only a small amount of virus to cause a cold, but, to treat cancer, hundreds of millions of viral particles have



to be injected into the bloodstream or the tumour itself. "The major hurdle we have to overcome is the body's natural reaction to fight the virus," says Lee, now at Dalhousie University in Halifax. "If we can overcome that problem, then we'll be home free." To date, new viral therapies have been tested extensively only in mice. But in those trials, the reovirus has proved effective against brain, breast, prostate, ovarian and

## ➔ VIRAL ATTACK

In this artist's depiction, an green skeleton represents a cold virus attacking a small group of cancer cells. If there's enough of the virus, it can exploit the cell's growth mechanisms and take over the cancer, squashing it repeatedly until it will the cancer explodes.

colorectal cancers. Results of early toxicological tests on humans suggest the therapy is safe. The next step is to see if it works in clinical trials.

Get in line. These are countless bright ideas having their day in the lab, but when science closes its cancer often dies away, says Dr. Elizabeth Eisenhauer, who since 1982 has been director of the Investigational New Drug Program at the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group in Kingston, Ont. "Every time we think we've pinned something down," says Eisenhauer, "a little more comes along, just because of the genetic variety in human beings."

Take, for example, the now-extinct generation of therapies known as targeted drugs. Like the word approach, they were aimed directly at mopping up the tumour's molecular machinery. Loaded for pinpoint accuracy and generally benign side effects (at least no worse than chemotherapy), targeted drugs have, for some reason, fallen short of their initial promise. But if they're not the knockout blow everyone was hoping for, they're sticking around inroads on such cancers as lung, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, colon and chronic myeloid leukaemia to keep researchers encouraged. "Many would question whether in the long run we will ever 'cure' cancer," says Victor Ling, vice president of research at the B.C. Cancer Research Centre in Vancouver. "But theoretical optimism that we'll be able to control cancer so it becomes another disease we manage, like diabetes."

On the survival front, the broad prognosis today is much improved over a generation ago, especially for women with breast cancer and men with prostate cancer, two of the most common forms of the disease. The same holds true for a variety of other cancers, including melanomas, Hodgkin's disease and cancer of the uterus, cervix, thyroid, testis and male bladder. Others, including cancer of the lung, pancreas, stomach, ovary and brain, as well as leukaemia, are a harder go.

Adding concern: a new study's report by the American Cancer Society for the first time, cancer surpassed heart disease as the top killer in the U.S., based on 2002 figures, the most recent available. The report reveals that deaths in both disease categories have declined, but they've dropped more quickly for heart disease. But declines were attributed to fewer people smoking—



Law at Dalhousie has found an unlikely ally in the cold virus—it works in the laboratory

an addiction that lies behind as many as one-third of all cancers.

Still, there are more reasons for optimism. Recent studies, for example, show that women who appear to have the same so-called node-negative breast cancer actually have tumours that differ genetically. Those differences seem to determine which therapies respond well to traditional chemotherapy. The expectation is that by genetically screening

women in advance, doctors will be able to determine who will benefit from chemo, as well as from the new more targeted treatments. "These traditional chemotherapeutic drugs are toxic and expensive," says Alan Bernstein, president of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), "so why give a toxic drug to a woman who isn't going to respond?" Adds Bernstein, "I think we're looking at the beginnings of a very profound change in cancer treatment—there's a new situation going on."

**IF BERNSTEIN** is right about the revolution, then Marilyn Michener, a 49-year-old marketing executive in Toronto, is at the barricades. In August 2003, she was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer even though, as she likes to point out, "I've never smoked a day in my life." Within a month of that diagnosis, after a hellish period in

and out of hospital beds, "I was told I better start getting my affairs in order," she says. The disease—known as non-small-cell lung cancer, the most common type—had spread to her stomach. Her first doctor gave her a year to live. In March 2004, after a round of aggressive chemotherapy, another specialist, Dr. Francis Shepherd at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, told Michener her cancer was "active" again. Shepherd suggested Michener consider participating in a clinical trial for Iressa, one of the newest of the targeted drugs.

There are only a handful of these medications approved for clinical use in Canada, though others are being tested in trials. What makes them different from traditional chemo or radiation is that they are designed to home in on the cancer cell's peculiar makeup and attack that directly. Iressa, as well as earlier drugs like Gleevec (for chronic myeloid leukaemia), target a chemical receptor called EGFR that helps

## BREAKING THE CHAIN



**TARGETED CANCER DRUGS** like Gleevec, seen here in orange in this artist's depiction, attach themselves to mutant receptors studding the cell membrane—a bit like Lego blocks snapping together. That prevents other molecules, which the tumour needs to grow, from binding to the receptor. The effect is to break the chain of chemical commands that signal runaway cell division, ending tumour growth.

the cancerous cell grow and spread.

Approved only for non-small-cell lung cancer, though it's being tested on others, Iressa has been known to shrink tumours by more than 30 percent, and extend lives sometimes by years—welcome news against the world's worst cancer killer. Unfortunately, Iressa works in only 10 percent of patients—those whose cancer cells appear to have a particular genetic signature—and costs up to \$3,000 a month. It's not yet possible to predict conclusively who will respond to treatment.

## THE BIG ONES

Along with breast cancer as most and breast cancer in women, lung and colorectal cancers in both sexes account for 30 percent of all new cases each year. Breast and prostate are the most common cancers, but lung cancer remains the most frequent cause of death. For women, the mortality rate is growing: it rose from what it was in 1975, a result of the huge increases in women smokers from the 1950s to early '90s.

Others that are difficult to treat include multiple myeloma, and leukaemia, which affects the brain and coating of nerves.

Michener, though, took the plunge. She signed up for the trial and was randomly selected by computer to start taking a single Iressa pill daily. She started last June and continues today. "It wouldn't be surprising to say that within three or four days there was some sort of change going on," she says. "All of a sudden, my breathing was easier, the pain wasn't there anymore." The one of Michener's follow-up exams, her lung capacity had improved so dramatically that the technician thought the machine had malfunctioned. A nurse handed her a report with testfully smiling results. "She said, 'You might want to frame that because it says the stomach cancer is gone,'" recalls Michener, her voice catching. "So me, it's been unbelievable."

Michener is one of the lucky ones. In December, Iressa's manufacturer, London-based drug giant AstraZeneca, released a disappointing study that said the drug "failed to significantly prolong survival" in a trial of 1,692 patients with advanced lung cancer. The study showed significant tumour shrinkage but not "statistically significant survival benefit." Further tests are planned. Meanwhile, AstraZeneca said it would discuss the results with Health Canada, suspect Iressa progression, but continue



# OFFSHORE PRESSURE

What Newfoundland wants—and why Danny Williams may get it yet. PAUL WELLS reports.

**DANNY WILLIAMS** was fresh and ruffled from a Barbados vacation last week. He limped back on a plush chair in his office on the eighth floor of Newfoundland's Confederation building in St. John's. But if he looked relaxed as he began talking, his calm didn't last long. Soon the premier of Newfoundland and Labrador was speaking in urgent tones about the file that has overshadowed all others for him: a high-stakes negotiation with Paul Martin over equalization payments that could be worth billions of dollars to one of the nation's poorest provinces.



The last time Williams met with federal officials, on Dec. 22 in Winnipeg, he ended up screaming and ordering the Canadian flag taken down from provincial government buildings. It's a measure of the extraordinary animosity this arcane fiscal debate has sparked that, while Williams has ordered the Maple Leaf back up, some Newfoundlanders are still flying the peck, whale and gown "republican flag," a thinly dis-

The relationship was smoother when Martin was more into office a year ago

severed naturalist along. In the *Globe and Mail*, senior columnist Margaret White said the province was probably the world's most scenic wildlife ghetto.

So now, with just about everybody in this province angry at just about everybody outside it, Williams and Martin will meet again in Ottawa on Jan. 28 to try to reach a deal.

Williams does not believe he should even have to be negotiating at this late date. "The big question we have to ask ourselves here is, why are we waiting so long to get our promise fulfilled? If this were Quebec or Ontario or any other province, this wouldn't be happening. We're now into our eighth month barfing away at this. And it's been a hardship. And it shouldn't be."

If we're to understand how people here become so stressed, perhaps it will help to go back to June 5 of last year, a hectic Saturday at the end of perhaps the worst week in Paul Martin's political life.

It was the second week of the election campaign, and the trend lines could not be worse. When Martin arrived in St. John's on Friday afternoon, June 4, the daily *SES-CTAC* tracking poll showed the Liberal lead over Stephen Harper's Conservatives had shrunk from 13 points to three. The Liberal lead was sliding by about a point a day. The number of respondents saying it was "time for a change" was trending upward, too, and while Martin was still the leader picked by a majority as the best prime minister, Harper had cut that lead in half.

Newfoundland and Labrador have only seven federal seats, but they no longer looked like a luxury Martin could afford to lose. If anything, though, the Liberal crisis in Newfoundland and Labrador was even more depressing than Martin's national headaches. One of Stephen Harper's first campaign stops had been in St. John's, where he promised a business crowd over lunch that he would end the so-called "clawback" of resource revenues from equalization.

Equalization isn't like a wage top-up: provinces that receive federal off-inflow services are given cash payments by Ottawa to bring them up to a set standard. Currently, every



The Newfoundland premier grew up in St. John's—which voted against Confederation in 1949

province except Ontario and Alberta receives equalization payments.

A growing amount of Newfoundland's revenue comes from resource off-shore oil developments at Hibernia and Terra Nova. A third, White Rose, is scheduled to come online in 2006. Newfoundlanders hope more will follow. All this offshore activity would allow Newfoundlanders to believe the long-sighted province is finally catching a break, but for the way equalization works. As a province's own revenues grow, its equalization payments shrink. That's in the very nature of a wage top-up: the more you earn, the less help you need. But for Newfoundlanders it has felt like running up a down escalator. Each dollar of oil revenue is "clawed back" by a \$1 reduction in equalization.

In 1984, the Supreme Court ruled that the offshore fell under Ottawa's jurisdiction. But in 1985, Brian Mulroney's federal government and Brian Peckford's Conservative Newfoundland government signed the Atlantic Accord, which gave Newfoundland 100 per cent of the offshore revenues and also what are called offset benefits—effectively allowing the province to keep some of the equalization payments it would otherwise have lost to oil and gas income growth.

That wasn't good enough for Williams. He wanted full equalization payments, so the one-time bonanza of oil wells would benefit the province directly. Stephen Harper and Jack Layton, in quick succession, came to St. John's to promise they'd deliver.

Which brings us back to Paul Martin's bad week. On June 2, John Eilford, the Newfoundlandier who serves as Martin's natural resources minister, told a lunchtime business crowd in St. John's that offshore benefits were too important to be discussed during an election campaign. Williams could not have been angrier at Eilford's slipshod remark. The premier gave his own speech to the same association the next day, saying nobody in Newfoundland and Labrador should vote Liberal if the party failed to deliver an

issued commitment to 100 per cent of offshore benefits.

The next day was Andy Wells's turn. The mayor of St. John's had signed Martin's nomination papers when Martin was running for the Liberal leadership. But now he said he would be voting Conservative because Martin was letting Newfoundlanders down.

Still, Martin raised nothing any specific commitments. In Halifax, his last campaign stop before St. John's, the Prime Minister said only that he "understood the arguments that were being made" by Williams and his New Scotia counterpart, John Horgan, who was also seeking a 100 per cent offer for resource revenues. Martin was "currently prepared to deal with the province's demands," he said, "on a reasonable basis." That was all.

Since released, the order was to put the flags back on all provincial buildings.

That night, Martin and Layton taped a CBC town hall meeting in St. John's. Local Liberal supporters told the city's reporters not to expect any other media availability from the PM. But the evening closed with news of another stunning poll. Ipsos-Reid, polling for CTV and the *Globe and Mail*, put the Liberals only one point ahead of the Conservatives. "The Liberals are falling through the floor," CTV's Ottawa bureau chief Craig Edgar reported.

The next morning, June 5, Williams's phone rang at about 7:30 a.m. Martin said Williams he would accept the Newfoundland government's demand for 100 per cent of offshore revenues. Martin announced the news at a morning campaign event. "What we're really got to do is a



government is make sure that Newfoundland and Labrador is the primary beneficiary of its resources," he said. He'd spoken to Williams, he said, "and I have made it very clear that the proposal that he's put forth is a proposal that we accept."

Almost immediately, Williams began issuing assurances that Martin had promised what he appeared to have promised. In a letter to the PM on June 10, he wrote "An

important task for both of us now is to ensure that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have a clear and precise understanding of your commitments and what has been agreed to."

That letter received no written response from the overzealous Martin. After the election, on July 10, Martin and Williams spoke again by telephone. Again Williams wanted written confirmation. On Aug. 5,

he wrote: "It is important that our single negotiation team brings their work with a clear understanding of our agreement," he wrote. He sent Martin a draft of an "instruction letter" the two could send to their representatives. He urged Martin to suggest any changes.

Again, no answer. "I am very concerned that we have not begun to implement our agreement," Williams wrote on Aug. 24. He

urged Martin to sign off on the negotiation letters within 10 days.

Martin replied to some of Williams's letters. Federal officials now say the Prime Minister was focused on the September First Ministers' meeting on health care, the exclusion of other federal provincial issues. Williams would simply have to wait.

When the September summit closed with a health-care deal, several provinces persuaded Martin to reinvoice the promise to overhaul equalization. That's the scenario that Williams worked out of before it began.

## PEOPLE in Ottawa are used to not getting quick answers, but Martin's ways have put off Newfoundlanders

taking a couple of hours first to explain to a succession of reporters and TV crews his rage at Martin's foot-dragging.

It is worth taking all this space to belabour the process that led us to Williams's December tantrum and, as it soiled, his December tantrum, because it gives you a chance to live how catastrophically the two leaders' styles have clashed.

People in St. John's are not used to giving Danny Williams any backtalk. The radio-millions cable television entrepreneur famously once nonsense-splashed Hebes's famous temper. And he comes from St. John's Tory stock—he is the "newscast," or native of the capital, to become premier since the province joined Confederation in 1949.

That means he grew up steeped in the city creed and Irish Catholic traditions that made St. John's vote against Confederation in 1949 and still makes it the headquarters of provincial resistance against the mainland. So Williams was more or less born with a chip on his shoulder.

People in Ottawa are not used to getting quick answers from Paul Martin. The Prime Minister may see nothing wrong in setting a commitment until June 4, making it under duress on June 5, then providing no detail until Oct. 24, when finance minister Ralph Goodale fired a proposal to Williams. But that pattern of behaviour has put a good many Newfoundlanders off. And if there is any province where people are prone to believe they have been given the news, it is this one.

It is hard for mainlanders to understand how a province that will receive \$674 million in equalization payments in 2004 (\$5-\$1,364 per capita, compared, for example, to the \$-988 Quebecers get—can feel hard done by. But every Newfoundlanders comes with a stock of hard-luck memories. There's Joey Smallwood's hasty 1949 deal with Quebec for hydroelectric development at Churchill Falls, a deal that pretty much locked payments in at 1969 rates, depriving Newfoundland and Labrador of close to \$1 billion a year those days. There's the utter collapse of the cod fishery in 1992, due, in the minds of many, to foreign overfishing that Ottawa could not bother to stop. There's the out-migration that has cost the province one-sixth of its population—the youngest, most productive third—in a decade.

Periodic attempts to cut these losses up

## THROUGH THE AGES

Newfoundlanders have had their share of hard-luck history and lost opportunities

1800 CE: Norse Vikings establish oldest known European settlement in North America at L'Anse-au-Loup.  
1497: John Cabot arrives. As a reward, King Henry VII pays Cabot £18.  
1895: Newfoundland achieves responsible government under Philip Francis Little.

1918: Newfoundland and Labrador is created when St. John's, Lunenburg and the rest of the province are separated from the rest of the province.  
1928: Newfoundland and Labrador is created when St. John's, Lunenburg and the rest of the province are separated from the rest of the province.  
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1948: John Cabot arrives. As a reward, King Henry VII pays Cabot £18.  
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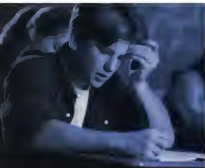
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Another benefit of education at independent schools is that they can attract faculty "who specialize in a particular subject area and curricular activity. This is a real advantage," says Stuart Granger, headmaster of Trinity College School in Port Hope, Ont. "We have experts who care passionately about their students and areas of interest. In return, our teachers appreciate our strong value system and honour code, as well as the fact that we respect tradition while embracing change."

Canadian College Italy, alternatively known as CCI—the Renaissance School, also hires teachers who are specialists in their subject areas. Located in the medieval town of Lenciano in central Italy, the school offers Grades 10 through 12 students a summer program or 10-month school year, says founder and head of the school, Maria DiCarlo D'Alessandro.

While studying for their Ontario secondary school diploma with teachers who are from Canada, students enjoy four overnight and several day trips to culturally rich destinations such as Florence. Teachers prepare students for trips with lec-

tures and visual presentations before departure and serve as their guides during the tours.

CAS's Hazell observes that member schools emphasize teacher development. "There is a huge value placed on teachers as life-long learn-

**We have experts who care passionately about their students and areas of interest. In return, our teachers appreciate our strong value system and honour code, as well as the fact that we respect tradition while embracing change.**

ers, and they regularly attend conferences on specific methodologies and teaching approaches," she says. "I'm amazed at how many of them are involved in professional development, even during the summer months. They feel supported by their schools in this, and it's a tremendous benefit to the students."

George Rutherford, head of school at Holy Trinity School in Richmond Hill, Ont., points out another plus for independent schools. "The diversity of course offerings can be narrower...because our clientele is focused on university admission. We're not trying to be all things to all people."

"We have a strong academic program and no trades training. We admit children when we can help them succeed and we offer a balanced program with performing arts, music and athletics. And it's a small enough school that kids can generally all connect with each other as well as with activities they enjoy."

John Patterson, a parent with two

## BOARDING SCHOOL SATISFACTION RATINGS HIGH

New research shows that boarding schools serve a diverse body of motivated and well-rounded students. The boarding environment provides a supportive and inclusive academic community where students learn about independence and responsibility. It's the premise of a better education that motivates most parents and their children to apply to boarding schools.

In fact, 95 per cent of boarding school students say they're satisfied or very satisfied with their academic experience, while 81 per cent report that their school is academically challenging. These students spend more time on homework and on extracurricular activities than their peers in public or private day schools, and more of them report having been very well prepared for university.

girls at Holy Trinity School, is on its education committee and is impressed by the depth of discussion at committee meetings and by the ongoing evaluation of programs.

"Can we do better?" is a question that is asked repeatedly," he says. "I also find that they expect more of the children, both academically and with extra-curricular activities."

Robert Martin is a Grade 11 student at St. Andrew's College in Aurora, Ont. An avid hockey player who hopes to get a university scholarship, Martin says that independent schools do push students harder. "Achievers can thrive in this environment," he notes. "The workload is a bit heavier, and you have to meet your deadlines or there are consequences. In my case, I can't play hockey if I don't get my academic work done—and that's a real motivator."



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## CO-ED VS. SINGLE-SEX

Where Do Kids Learn Best? The Jury's Still Out

Whether it is better to teach children in a single-sex or mixed environment is a matter of strongly held opinion in the independent school community. You can find teachers, administrators, parents and students who come down firmly on either side of the issue, many with research to back their views and others with questions about the validity of that research. In the end, finding the right school to motivate your child may be the only criterion that really matters.

Some formerly all-boys schools have gone co-ed in the last few years, but single-sex schools still have strong supporters. St. Andrews College boarding and day school in Aurora, Ont., is one such school for boys in Grades 4 through 12.

"Boys will open up in this environment," says Kevin McHenry, director of academics. "We see boys who

come out of a co-ed environment who are very concerned about being compared to girls, not to mention the pressures of trying to be 'cool' and impress them."

McHenry says that boys aren't afraid to take risks at St. Andrews. "It's amazing what happens in the class in a single-sex environment. For example, I dropped in on a Grade 11 class recently where the boys had been taught a poem and were given the assignment of finding creative ways to deliver the poem to the next class. In groups of two, they did skits, sang and played guitar. I've taught in a co-ed environment and I never saw boys this motivated or comfortable, without the fear of embarrassing themselves in front of girls."

Boys are active learners, and St. Andrews teachers work hard to offer a variety of different activities during

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class. "Here, the method of delivery is as important as the content," says McHenry. "Lectures don't work well for boys, and our faculty members change gears three to four times each period, offering different learning activities."

McHenry stresses the importance of developing emotional intelligence. "Research indicates that girls mature at an earlier age than boys...I believe that it's beneficial to

separate the genders until the age of 18, when research shows that boys catch up emotionally," he notes.

At Trinity College School in Port Hope, Ont., they see things differently. The institution began admitting girls in 1992. Headmaster Stuart Grainger believes that isolating learning styles based solely on gender is not a panacea. Everybody learns differently. What is important is that all children feel supported in

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their individual learning styles by their teachers and their school. A child who is a respected and valued member of the school community is likely to experience and exhibit high levels of self-confidence, self-worth and self-esteem. When this is in place, his or her willingness and ability to learn, engage in dialogue and understand is enhanced. This applies to both boys and girls.

"At Trinity College, we believe in supporting different learning styles and offering genuine respect for young people, a breadth of programming, a sound support network and faculty development... it's important for all young people to learn to work collaboratively and respectfully with people who are different than they are, regardless of whether those differences are cultural, religious, political, age-related or gender-based." Angela Terpsie, assistant headmaster, curriculum, at Appleby

College, is also in favour of mixed learning. The school, located in Oakville, Ont., changed from all-boys to co-ed 10 years ago. Terpsie believes that, while boys and girls do learn differently, it doesn't mean they should be separated. Research shows girls outperform boys in literacy skills, and boys outperform girls in math and science. However, it's not a matter of leaving the kids to do whatever they do poorly or well, but asking instead what pedagogy is in place to transform their learning. Furthermore, bringing girls into the equation helps to create a more humane environment.

George Rutherford is also in favour of co-ed learning environ-

**White boys and girls do learn differently, it doesn't mean they should be separated. Research shows girls outperform boys in literacy skills, and boys outperform girls in math and science.**

ments. Rutherford, now head of school for Holy Trinity School in Richmond Hill, Ont., previously worked at an all-boys school. "My experience there was that females weren't appreciated as equals. And, after all, it is a co-ed world that we're preparing students for."

Susan Hatzell, executive director of the Canadian Association of Independent Schools, has also worked in both single-sex and co-ed schools. She advises parents to consider what's best for each child, taking their own family composition into account. "I had two sons and felt that they would benefit from a co-ed school. But if I had a daughter who lacked confidence, I might consider a girls' school for her. Some families with an equal balance of boys and girls choose single-sex for their children's primary years and then switch them into a co-ed school later.

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Richard Gosthuizen chose a boys' school after spending his primary years in a co-ed environment. Now a Grade 12 student at St. Andrew's College, Gosthuizen appreciates the bonds that form in an all-male environment. "I can try new things without the social anxiety that you experience in co-ed schools," he observes.

Gosthuizen points out that there are many opportunities for a mixed social life at St. Andrew's. "We have dances and parties and we're not awkward around girls the way some people assume," he says. He adds, with a smile, "I don't think my girlfriend finds me socially awkward." ■

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Weather | BY KEN MACQUEEN

## DEATH RAINS DOWN

Ripping the heart from a Vancouver neighbourhood

LONG BEFORE it turned deadly, the storm that lashed B.C. last week was dubbed "Tropical Punch" for its warm weather and Pacific island origins. Its relentless rains undercut roads, flooded lowlands and washed away mountain snowpacks from Whistler to the North Shore. In the mountainside communities of North and West Vancouver, roaring creeks and rivers suddenly yugured into torrents, and houses squished underfoot like wet sponges. While many feared the rising waters, disaster struck Wednesday, high above the flood plain. At 3:16 a.m., a heavily forested hillside in the Mount Seymour area of North Vancouver gave way and smashed like a runaway train through the home of college instructor Michael and Eliza Kettner. Wreckage was swept into homes and yards 80 m down the slope.

Neighbours and a rescue crew, ignoring the risk of further slides, pulled a badly injured Michael from the mud and debris. The body of Eliza was recovered 10 hours later, too late to save her. Two friends' wives, married to the had survived a similar mudslide when she was an 11-year-old in Hong Kong more than 30 years ago. The current also ripped into the home of Collette and Harvey Dyles, lifting their bed and smashing it into the room of their eldest daughter, Jacintha, trapping them almost at ceiling level. Remarkably, they emerged without a few scratches. "So many small miracles had to happen," Collette said of their survival. "We're so lucky."

Rain played havoc throughout B.C., putting many communities on flood alert and closing major highways and restricting ski trails because of an extreme risk of avalanches. The province issued a state of emergency as another four days of rain was on the way. ■



Rescue workers search the debris in North Vancouver where a woman was swept to her death



**A BOMB BLAST** is a crude but effective substitute for a wake-up call. As shattered glass rains down on your bed, you emerge from that twilight zone between dream and reality to find that your front room door has been ripped open. With the trail of explosives flooding the room, you fumble your way to the balcony, where you look out at the damage on the street below and listen to the approaching police sirens.

For two all of Baghdad and the surrounding area sit in its churches, even as the ballot boxes for the Jan. 30 election arrive by the thousands. "I wouldn't recommend going any further," says a U.S. Marine at the last checkpoint before the city, still under 180 km to the south through open desert. "It's no man's land for the next 50 miles. The bad guys are out there and if something happens, we won't be able to reach you." As a cold desert wind blows, the Marine barks orders to a group on the roof of an abandoned Hussein who's turned to watch us. "Eyes on the desert!" he roars. "Stay sharp."

My driver, a Sunni Arab I met in Erbil in Iraq's Kurdistan and the only one willing to take me to Baghdad, shrugs his shoulders and asks me to put inside my Canadian passport, taking my Palestinian one in its stead. "From now on, no English," he says. "Better still, no talking at all." We climb back into his rusty Caprice Classic and hunch back onto the road.

I've been on this road before, in what can loosely be called safer times, when Baghdad to Erbil was considered the road trip of choice for vacationing war journalists. It was busy highway then, not the ghost road it's become today—Meski asphalt populated only by the odd dog chasing our car. I remember relaxing on this road, while my driver would throw on some Arab pop and tap his fingers to the beat. But on this occasion, every dusty hillock has become a potential ambush point, and in my imagination every desert overpass has been left with phantom snipers.

It's impossible to communicate yourself against the fear. The car bomb outside my hotel in Baghdad's Manshiya District doesn't help. Mount for the Australian embassy, it's one of five to be decommissioned in the hours

on the morning of Jan. 29. Like many of the attacks that have plagued Baghdad in the run-up to the Jan. 30 election, as victims are innocent bystanders. It also shatters any illusion I still have about the coming vote. Elections are supposed to be about hope, but there's precious little of that here.

**the violence has made it difficult for many parties to get their message out**

"Everything is ruined up," says Radd, a 33-year-old carpenter trying to keep up with rebuilding a city where structures keep being blasted into rubble. "Everyone's too scared and confused to think about voting." Speculation over how election day will unfold ranges wildly in spite of stringent security precautions, many Iraqis are still expecting a bloodbath.

At a weekend rally across the Tigris River from one of Saddam Hussein's former presidential palaces, gunmen agree that heading to the polls is as good as heading to your grave. The bombings of Jan. 23, which killed 26 and wounded dozens more, were "only a small taste of what will happen on Jan. 30," says Kasim Ali, a 40-year-old blacksmith from Mada-

madhya, a village just south of Baghdad in an area so violent it's called the "Triangle of Death." Assassins in his town have threatened to kill anyone seen at the polling stations, people are refusing even to fill out registration cards for fear that the referendum will fall into the wrong hands, with fatal results.

Jalal Akram, 35, says that in Zafraquiya, another village in the Triangle of Death, insurgents have planned walks with their own rented versions of election posters. "The message," he says, "tells: 'Anyone who goes to the polls will have a present waiting for them—a bomb.'" Road, one of the few people I meet who intends to vote, seems

# CAMPAIGN OF FEAR

Terror may keep many Iraqis away from the polls on Jan. 30, writes ADNAN R. KHAN



# THE TOXIC WORKPLACE

A poisoned atmosphere can wreak havoc, writes KATHERINE MACKLEM

WHEN STEVE JONES WAS JUST TWO YEARS from retirement, he quit his job as vice president of human resources in one of Canada's largest banks, walking away not only from a high salary but also from a fat pension. He'd spent his entire career in banking, and had no idea what to do next. A change-of-management two years earlier had replaced a people-friendly way of doing business with one more cutthroat and focused on the bottom line—an approach diametrically opposed to what Jones believed in. The new leaders systematically dismantled programs he'd put in place. The level of pressure he experienced at work went through the roof. Not only was he sleeping badly, he'd developed diabetes, which he says may have been triggered by high stress. He'd tried, unsuccessfully, to get laid off. "I was a 55-year-old, overweight white guy," says Jones, who asked that his real name not be

used, "and I figured, if I went across to work, I can always deliver pizza."

You know things are bad when delivering pizzas beats bringing in for another 24 months. Besides, Jones had a high-paying job—he was making \$180,000 a year as a corporate vice president with a lavish office in a downtown high rise. But realizing "there wasn't much value in a position if I was dead," he knew he couldn't stay. "I felt absolutely out of sync," he says. "There'd been conversations at meetings that made me feel I was in a foreign country when I didn't understand the rules or the principles."

In *The Corporation*, the hit 2003 documentary film, businesses are portrayed as psychopaths that can wreak havoc in the communities where they operate. Human-resources experts are finding the same kind of havoc can be wreaked inside a company as well, and can have disastrous effects on the people working there. It's a phenomenon that's become increasingly prevalent, they say, so much so that it's now a new model to describe the situation: the toxic work environment. In Jones's case, there was a bad thing wrong with him; in other, his workplace was so poisonous, he was unable to function.

And in today's business world, where there's an unprecedented focus on next quarter's earnings, the toxic company is becoming increasingly commonplace. "This is an epidemic phenomenon," says Senanayake Kelly, who is building an executive search business after two decades in corporate human resources. Agents of the global search firm Toydon International, Kelly and her business partner Michael McInerney have

## THE SYMPTOMS OF A POLLUTED COMPANY

It's not a single thing that creates a toxic company, but a combination of a few. Mediocrity over merit: promotions based on favoritism; mediocrity is rewarded. Management by fear: disagreement is a career-ending move; now silence they say. Leaders lose it: executives always operate at high stress levels.

Age and gender ghettoes: leaders hire in their own image, resist new perspectives. Personal agendas prevail: ego-driven company business agenda and values. Revolving leadership door: new leaders come and go, long-tenured run the show. Poor public persona: negative comments rampant in surveys, blogs and chat rooms. What human assets? Financial assets are "valued" more, people are "costs." Did it all ever align? no clear vision of the future, and as a result the company can't move forward.

Source: Reader tributes

established a Toronto consulting business called the Toydon Institute, which aims to identify and weed out toxic leaders. "There's a lot for unnecessary profits," Kelly says.

That has created a culture inside an organization where the pursuit of short-term profits trumps above all else, including the company's long-term health. Often the CEO's remuneration—and ego—is closely linked to those quarterly profits, and closely linked to those quarterly profits is the

company's growth and survival. McInerney points out this with the average salary of today's CEOs shrinking, they have only a small window in which to make a mark. Often, the result is an absence of humanity in the workplace, Kelly says.

Relentless demands, extreme pressure and brutal ruthlessness are all trademarks of a toxic company, as is a societal disconnect between what a firm says it does for employees and what it actually is doing. People are looked at as costs, rather than assets. On its books, a company might have progressive policies regarding work-life issues, but in fact employs night-time workers, a key option for those who are struggling to balance career and family. Fear and paranoia, and anxiety to the point of panic, are other characteristics of a toxic workplace. "You can tell as soon as you walk into an office that it's toxic," says Barbara Moses, a consultant in career management and author of *What Not? The Complete Guide to Taking Control of Your Working Life*, among other employment-related books. "People are rushed, they have that hunched look," she says. "Conversations are curt and abrupt; there's no chance for thoughtful, rich conversation."

There are multiple reasons why the toxic workplace is proliferating. Kelly says. With mergers and acquisitions, some corporations are becoming more voracious and impersonal, while simultaneously reducing the number of jobs that have left companies lean and left individuals with workloads greater than is reasonably feasible over the long haul. Instead of rewarding long-term planning, expediency is demanded. Add in a leader who ignores the human toll, and the result is likely a toxic workplace. Creative as a generative idea—initially, the factors that drive the best corporations—are stifled; employees are alienated; people get sick.

As if yet there aren't studies focusing directly on the toxic workplace, but other stats provide an interesting backdrop. An overwhelming 99 per cent of Canadian companies polled last summer said the workload of their employees has increased, says a report



by Mercer Human Resources Consulting. At 64 per cent of them, "emotional tension is prevalent among employees," and absenteeism is up at 66 per cent of the firms. Another study, conducted by a different Hill consulting firm, Touwen Perrin, shows most

Canadian executives turned on by their work. While one in five say they are highly engaged, almost the same proportion (17 per cent) say they are disengaged. Three out of five claim to be moderately engaged. For their business, Kelly and McInerney

have hooked up with Lewis Stokes, a clinical psychologist, to run an assessment tool they say will weed out toxic leaders. It's one that identifies how people behave under stress—factors they call derailleurs. These are characteristics that, under duress, can become disorders. For example, a sleep-deprived boss can be healthy, but under stress, that same person can become distrustful and paranoid.

A bold leader can become a narcissist really. A cautious person can become a paragon. "On any team, you need different people," Stokes says. "You still need, as one highlighted at the dark side, that can come around and bite you." Culture matters, stresses McInerney, and it's almost always set by the person at the top. "If there's a healthy culture, an organization can survive numerous crises," he says. "If it's not into wiring, it's not going to survive." Not all employees, Jones, now working in a consulting

firm, says that while he makes far less money than he used to, his health is pretty good. "I wouldn't trade the money," he says, "to ever go back into that again."

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## SUREFIRE INVESTMENTS

Buy Canadian commodity stocks for the rest of the decade—and hold 'em

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Since the birth rate decline accelerated in the industrial world in 1970, the key to investment strategies in the last half of each decade has been betting the winning asset classes of the decade's first five years. Commodities, led by gold, base metals and oil, outperformed other asset classes in the 1970s, in the 1980s, Japanese stocks and bonds, along with financial

and consumer stocks everywhere, were the leading investments. In the 1990s, it was U.S. stocks, particularly technology stocks. The current decade's main have-been.com markets, led by metals and oil, reliable dividend-paying stocks and Canadian stocks in general. Because Canada's market has such heavy exposure to those sectors and groups, and because of the strong loonie, Toronto has been a top performer among all the industrial world's stock markets.

begin their crash in March 2000, the plunge that knocked the U.S. off its economic leadership perch.

Here's the formula for growing wealth for the rest of this decade: stick with the winners. The big ones now are: (1) tech technology stocks; (2) the surrounding demand for commodities, particularly oil and base metals, from the hundreds of millions of new middle-class

people in China and India; (3) the continuing problems of the industrial world arising from deteriorating demographic trends, which mean high costs for labour and for retirees—particularly costly pensions and health care; (4) the War on Terror, whose financial consequences stretched almost exclusively by the already overvalued U.S. and (5) the fall in the U.S. dollar.

Used the greenback machine, American stocks and bonds will underperform those of the rest of the industrial world, particularly Canada. Although an undervalued currency makes companies based in that country more competitive, global investors fear holding assets denominated in a weak currency.

**Oil rigs (above, near Calgary) are barely able to keep up with demand.**



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so the stock market of a falling monetary country keeps losing relative value (as measured by the price-earnings ratio) compared with other markets. There's nothing surer than the rich holders of assets in strong-flaring currencies get richer, while the poor holders of assets in weakening currencies get poorer.

The most successful stocks are those Canadian (and Australian) companies with the longest-life resources of oil and metals in politically secure areas of the world. Because, in the growing Chinese and Indian middle class obtain the basic life elements of comfortable living—houses with indoor plumbing, electricity, basic appliances and, collectively, large-scale automobile ownership—the appetite for global supplies of oil, steel and basic metals will continue to intensify.

Meanwhile, the industrial world's demand for raw materials runs only moderately slow for now, because most of us already have those basic ingredients of modern living. The 1990s mining boom that drove the Canadian dollar to US\$1.46 came from the demands of the surging middle class in North America, Japan and Europe. But by 1978, most people in the industrial world had indoor plumbing, electricity and cars. That came the baby bust, which meant that middle-class population growth began to decline. Those two factors combined to make the industrial economy moderate growth consumers. In 2003, U.S. GDP grew by three per cent, but copper demand fell by three per cent. Fifty years ago, such economic growth would have meant double-digit growth in copper demand.

Oil demand grew rapidly after the Second World War as automobile ownership kept setting new records. Then came the shocks of the 1970s and the belated recognition of the need for greater energy efficiency. Therefore, oil demand grew slowly, but not just from the huge discoveries made around the world from 1959 to 1975 kept expanding the industry's resource, even when prices for crude collapsed.

If the Asians climbing the economic ladder had chosen to go along without computers, washing machines and, most importantly, cars, oil would still be cheap and metals would still be in over-supply. During the 1960s, many prominent late liberals opined that the Chinese loved their bicycles too much to repeat the mistakes we had made to our disastrous loss after war cars. It



Economic growth in India and China is creating opportunities for long-term investors.

didn't turn out that way. Global oil production is barely able to keep up with rising demand, led by China, now the world's second-largest oil importer and fourth-largest automobile market.

The oil giants, long feared as the mighty Seven Sisters, who could play off each other, are now desperate to maintain their share because—

Most serious investors of longer-term supply and demand believe that crude prices will be robust in coming years, not only in greenbacks, but in strong currencies as well.

Less obvious, but almost as attractive, are the great global mining companies such as Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Phelps Dodge, Inco, Alcan, Teck Cominco and Potash Corp.) which produce the copper, zinc, nickel, lead, iron, aluminum and fertilizer that China and India must have. It is a renaissance of how cheap mining stocks have become after two decades of disappointment and decline that the market capitalization of the whole industry is only somewhat larger than that of Cisco Systems, a based growth stock.

Also appealing are "long-duration" stocks such as income and royalty trusts, along with financial industry stocks. Their major attraction, in contrast with commodity stocks whose appeal is long-term reserves, is high, after-tax income now, rather than potential capital gain later. During the 1990s, many prominent contrarian global investors to respect endless capital gain from stocks. During that decade, returns had returned and reliable returns from dividend stocks back in favour.

Long-duration commodity stocks, short-duration income stocks and a falling U.S. dollar—these are the key trends now. Savvy the joys of investing in Canada.

Chicago-based Donald Cook is Global Portfolio Strategist, BMO Financial Group, dcook@bmo.com

## TORONTO'S stock market has outperformed all other exchanges in the industrial world since tech stocks plunged in 2000

their plight. Not in CIBC's view, however, of delivering a reasonable proportion of their genetic energies in the oil industry, the serious shortcomings and disadvantages that lead that cartel have squandered nearly all their revenues, so they are unable to expand output at a time of soaring demand. Rapid Chinese and Indian economic progress, by OIL's problems and OPEC's rapidly closing opportunities for long-term investors. The most obvious reason to own are those of the Alberta oil sands producers, boasting the largest reserves of barrels of oil per share of any companies in the world.

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## A new biography celebrates John Kenneth Galbraith, and underscores his influence on John F. Kennedy

**IN THE FALL OF 1961**, John F. Kennedy was under intense pressure to ramp up the U.S. presence in Vietnam from a few thousand military "advisers" to a full combat force of more than 300,000 troops. The proposal came from Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. But the president was skeptical and turned to his ambassador to Paris, the Canadian-born economist John Kenneth Galbraith, for another perspective. Dispatched to Saigon, Galbraith sent back messages urging Kennedy to seek a more

cautious path. He suggested talking not the Russians, who were backing North Vietnam against U.S.-led South Vietnam, on the chances of negotiation. And he faced his advice with the wit

that the war-makers feared had won him special influence with Kennedy. "Incidentally," Galbraith asked, "when the man in your administration who decides what countries are strategic I would like to have his name and address and ask him what is so important about this real estate in the Space Age?"

Galbraith's bid to persuade Kennedy not to get more deeply entangled in Vietnam is a standard feature in histories of the JFK presidency. But in a narrative and new biography, *John Kenneth Galbraith: His Life, His Politics, His Economics*, Richard Parker tells the story in more depth and detail. He builds a powerful case, based on declassified government documents and access to Galbraith and his papers, that the economist was a more potent influence than previous accounts have suggested. Parker shows him using all his charm and incisive intelligence to rebalance those trying to push JFK toward full-scale war. One new piece of evidence Parker marshals to show how much

Kennedy valued Galbraith's views: the president offered to make him ambassador to the Soviet Union, an appointment Galbraith turned down in favor of going back to his job as an economics professor at Harvard University. "That was an audacious thing for Kennedy to do," Parker said in an interview, given the way Galbraith had clashed with the cold warriors in the administration.

In Parker's thorough 787-page account of Galbraith's remarkable life, the chapters on his place in Kennedy's Camelot are per-

haps the most gripping. Part of the reason is the enduring fascination with the tragic presidency itself. But another aspect is the way Galbraith's status as JFK's circle stands as a high point in his

career as a public intellectual. By the time Kennedy tapped him for a seat on a Diplomatic Council, Galbraith had already cut his teeth in Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, held a key economic post in FDR's Second World War administration, and gone on to Harvard and worldwide fame as the bestselling author of such books as 1938's *The Affluent Society*. Galbraith straddled a compelling voice long before Kennedy's assassination—by the now-86, and published a short book only last year on corporate greed and bureaucracy—but his brand of smart liberalism would never again seem so closely linked to the apex of American political power.

The glances of Kennedy's Washington might seem a long way from Iowa State, Ottumwa, where Galbraith was born into a farming family of Scottish descent in 1908. Yet Parker's biography makes them seem not entirely disconnected. Galbraith's father, Arthur, was a powerful liberal organizer with a reform bent, and Parker says he "set

**GALBRAITH'S**  
status in Kennedy's inner  
circle stands as a high  
point in his career as a  
public intellectual



# AN ECONOMIST IN CAMELOT

his son a model in his public service." In retrospect, Galbraith's start in higher education at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, Illinois, was auspicious. But it led him to study agricultural economics at the University of California at Berkeley, and that took him to Harvard, and a job in farm policy in Roosevelt's administration—where he absorbed lasting lessons on making battle to Iraq. Lamenting that meant to help poor Southern farmers was a struggle by the Depression. He wanted that success for the power imbalance between the affluent and the impoverished into the books that would later make him America's best-known economist.



With Kennedy in 1960, and with Jacqueline Kennedy during her visit to India in 1962 (right)

again by the time Kennedy became president.

Kennedy had part him long before, back in the 1930s when JFK was a Harvard undergraduate and Galbraith a tutor. But it wasn't until 1957 that Kennedy began seeking out his vision. Parker steered Galbraith as "part of JFK's inner circle, just outside the veteran 'Irish Mafia' that formed its political core." Being seen to New Delhi after Kennedy won the 1960 election might appear to have solidified Galbraith's, but Parker shows this wasn't the case. There was a steady stream of letters and queries, often dealing with Vietnam. (As well, Jacqueline Kennedy visited India in 1962 for a tour Galbraith later wrote about in terms that, Parker notes, "hover on the edge of rhapsody.") And Parker details how frustrated Defense, State and CIA officials trying to win JFK's support for more troops in Vietnam found themselves having to counter

Galbraith's pointed, private messages.

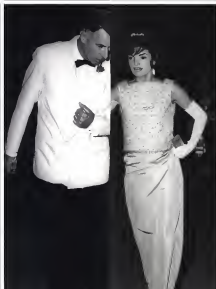
Kennedy's assassination changed everything. On the day after, Galbraith had a chance encounter with Lyndon B. Johnson. He took the opportunity to warn the incoming president about Indochina, but got no response. Johnson soon launched the escalation Galbraith had advised Kennedy against. Many historians believe that had Kennedy lived he would have avoided full-scale war. But whether they will accept Parker's case for Galbraith's key role in shaping Kennedy's view of Vietnam is another matter. "It's hard to know how much impact any person had on Kennedy," says Robert

Dallek, author of the 2003 Kennedy biography *An Unfinished Life*. He notes that Kennedy was acutely aware of examples of foreign adventures gone wrong, like Britain's Boer War and the U.S. experience in Korea. "There were telling examples for him," Dallek says, "so when he heard from people like Galbraith, it reinforced his own prejudice."

Galbraith's place in the story of JFK is only one chapter in his long run as a public intellectual. Parker, who teaches at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and is an unabashed fan of Galbraith, devotes most of the biography to arguing for his place as a major economist—a status conservatives have tried to deny since the end of his career. Still, Parker fully expects the Kennedy years to draw special attention. And that, for all of Galbraith's accomplishments, turns this into a life story with a strong, and undeniably, of what might have been. ■

# A LONELY DOVE AMONG HAWKS

Galbraith took on the defense establishment in his stand against full-scale war in Vietnam



IN APRIL 1962, Jacqueline Kennedy invited Galbraith, who was returning to Washington on official business in U.S. ambassador to India, to join the Kennedy family for a weekend at Glen Cove, the family's noted estate in the Virginia countryside. She greeted him, he later proudly wrote, with a "well-timed and widely reported line" at National Airport, and they and the President spent the evening watching an hour-long NBC special about her recent Indian visit, which duly impressed her husband. The next day, disrupting the mood of intimacy and innocent charm, Galbraith shared his growing alarm with President Kennedy about Vietnam, in Kennedy's request he left behind a memo about his concerns.

In the memo, Galbraith occupied space by point to his opinion of the state and faulty assumptions behind the policies Kennedy's advisers were advocating. He openly and sharply urged the President to seek some help in arranging a major pullback by North Vietnam "in return for phased American withdrawal." Thereafter, in the inside relations between the two parts of the country and general and non-specific agreement to talk about reunification after some period of tranquility. And he counseled JFK "to raise all corps which permit American troops to combat risks" and to back away immediately from newly implemented State and Defense department policies that called for forcing South Vietnamese peasants into "strategic hamlets" and for using defoliants such as Agent Orange.

From documents declassified in the late 1990s, it's now clear that Kennedy—who himself was then deeply alarmed by Vietnam and the pressure his aides were putting on him to send in U.S. troops—followed his ambassador's advice almost to the letter.

Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs Averell Harriman was called into the Oval Office the day after Kennedy got Galbraith's memo. There the President told him what it said, and told Harriman he wanted the Russians concerned about the deal Galbraith was proposing. Harriman was also told to instruct Galbraith to ask the Indian government to open similar discussions with the North Vietnamese on the same terms. That same afternoon Kennedy also sent a copy of Galbraith's memo to [Secretary of Defense Robert] McNamara.

Although he expected this by now, Kennedy's advisers put up quite powerful resistance to his clear intention. When he insisted that he wanted Galbraith instructed to get the Indians to open up channels to Hanoi, Harriman said he would—and that he never did, despite the President's direct orders. Galbraith never received the President's instructions, and no such orders can be found in State Department files. (Later in April, after learning that Harriman had rejected the idea of talking to the Russians, Galbraith sent a cable

**IT'S NOW** clear from documents that Kennedy was deeply alarmed by the pressure his aides were putting on him

asking, in elegant Chinese, which was, generously, ignored.)

From the Pentagon came even stronger resistance. McNamara forwarded to Kennedy a blunt rejection of Galbraith's proposals. Written by General Lyman Lemnitzer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the memo's conclusion bluntly convinced left Kennedy no room for doubt about when his senior military advisers needed: "The Department of Defense cannot concur in the policy advanced by Ambassador Galbraith, but believes strongly that present policy toward South Vietnam should be pursued vigorously to a successful conclusion." McNamara scribbled on the margins of his copy of the memo that it should not be sent or shown to Galbraith. ■

Adapted from Richard Parker's *John Kennedy: Gallantry, Mr. Life, Mr. Politics, Mr. Economics*

# 'THE FRAILTY OF JUDGMENT'

Galbraith on administrations past and present

**IN 1950**, John Kenneth Galbraith and his wife, Kitty, bought a large red-brick house just off the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Mass. Their home, ever since, is certainly precisely as one would imagine the residence of a great public intellectual. Off the spacious central hall is an oak-paneled, beech-floored living room. Galbraith, 96, prefers these days that a visitor climb the wide staircase to see him in a second-floor study. There's a landing that Richard Parker describes in his new biography of the economist as "simply lit" by its huge stained-glass window. Not on this rainy January afternoon, however. The house is full of students. But Galbraith, though he is hard of hearing and has no feet, eyes each frame as it is opened, as in this spirit, his trademark wet mustache. He puts down his copy of the current issue of *The New Yorker* to talk for an hour with *Maclean's* Ottawa Editor John Godebs

**How do you like Richard Parker's new biography of you?**

You couldn't have had a better person taking on your work in life. It's a great job of research and a good job of writing. Through the design of my own life I fell into the right hands.

Canadian readers will be interested in this account of your early years in rural Ontario. Parker emphasizes how your father, a strong Liberal and, for a time, a United Farmers of Ontario activist, must have influenced you.

My father had a very strong influence on me, not only about that. He was a major figure in that part of Ontario, both politically and as a farmer. He was a rich source of education and he had a dulcet expression in good English. That was very much a part of my early life. He liked politics. Later in life he said, "It has always been the sorrow of my life that Franklin Delano Roosevelt was not born a Canadian."

You worked in FDR's administration during both the Depression and the Second World War. Is there a perspective you gained in those years that was should be attention to those?

There's no question that my generation in economics and politics was powerfully made by the two world wars and their aftermath, and particularly by the Great Depression. The education in economic imbalance at that time was very strong. The tendency of economic awareness has diminished. In these

days in the United States you could not have elected George Bush.

**I take it you resent the current president.**

I mean the current Bush—Bush Senior had the considerable advantage of having no program at all.

**Were you taken aback by President Bush's recent re-election?**

My sensitivity has been dulled. After all, I began life in the United States with Herbert Hoover.



"When you have war, you don't question it"

**Can you offer any thoughts on this president and his policies?**

One thing that I would not emphasize is George Bush's peculiar form of eloquence. On his positions and the state of the economy over which he presides, there are two dominant factors: a hopelessness in the Middle East and a much clearer commitment to corporate efficiency.

I haven't talked with anybody for weeks who is in support of the war. The dominance of the corporate rich is a related factor, as far as military expenditure is concerned. And he is moving on an unworkable position in domestic policy, the two notable cases being tourism and distribution of income, and, most incredible, [reforming] social security.

**In his chapters on your role in JFK's administration, Parker draws attention to your efforts as Kennedy's ambassador to India to persuade him not to be drawn into full-scale war in Vietnam. How do you remember that?**

I was clearly involved. I had an early adverse view of the Vietnam exercise, which became very strong in my mind from both being in India and being sent to Saigon. This was further complicated by my being acquainted with military and civilian war-masters and the discovery of their intense passion, the frailty of their judgment. Had Kennedy lived, do you believe he would have withdrawn from Vietnam?

He had that fully in mind. The question was bringing the government along with him. The secretary of state, the secretary of defence and the whole military establishment had the idea that when you have a war that takes over all else, you don't question it. Question a military exercise and that's against patriotic duty. I'm not sure that it was entirely helpful that I was a Canadian.

**Conventions have been drawn to your speech press, but some economists seem to think that recent years are not a serious member of their professions. Does that bother you?**

While I was still in the Ontario Agricultural College, I was editor of a student paper called the *OACER*, and that exercise was the result of my early conviction that, more than mathematics and statistics, it was the quality of one's writing that won one an audience and influence. I never departed from that belief. The writing—about which I'm hearing from my favourable students of almost adequate proportion—those counted as important as the economics itself. ■

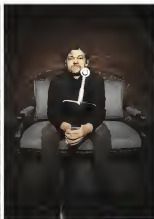
## RADICAL RING MASTER

A director transports the legend of a dragon slayer to a Freudian underworld

**IN WRITING ABOUT** movies, you have to be careful not to give away too much of the plot. Open is another story. No one gives a hoot if you spoil the outcome of Richard Wagner's Ring cycle ("Don't all call Sigurd a slayer! Valhalla is destroyed!") What is focused upon, however, is spoiling the set. With opera, the staging is the grand spectacle, the magic moment when the curtain comes up and The Vision is revealed. When the Canadian Opera Company launched the Ring last April with director Anne Egoyan's *Die Walküre*, I knew that Michael Levine—production designer for all four operas in the cycle—would win an Oscar about whose shadowed corpse being low under a cobble in a Valhalla of garden and cut walls. But in describing Sigurd, the COC's first Ring protagonist (premiering Jan. 17 in Toronto), he's had to give away a lot as he because it's so widely abstract. It's a madman.

The story unfolds in a forest. But under the direction of filmmaker François Girard, it takes place in Sigurd's head. The forest becomes a Freudian thicket of memories and dreams. Trees lean, fragments of bodies, garments and bodies bodies all flow suspended in a dream haze of psychological associations—a cerebral vortex, if you will. And in this Wagnerian sleep country, armed with moonbeams and mystery, the dragon are all dressed in white pyjamas, like a plumed column of Sigurd's virgin brain. The last son of Ishtar comes, Sigurd, whom also a plot he doesn't understand. And he's about today a dragon—a towering creature I don't dare describe, except to say that more white pyjamas are involved.

As director and co-writer of *The Red Sea* (1986) and *Thirty Two Short Films About*



*Glenn Gould* (1991), Girard, 42, has shown a deep affinity for music. "Open is the an actor's film," he tells me over dinner during a break in rehearsal for Sigurd. And it's true. You can't imagine modern blockbusters such as *Star Wars*, *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Matrix* or *Apocalypse Now* even existing without the epic Ring cycle. And Wagner was an colossal composer with such gripping passion, it was if he invented the notion of soundtrack. Girard concurs: "He thought process is very similar to what a film composer goes through. His music is narrowly drawn in film. If you're on the theme and suddenly a car crashes into a wall, you've got to reflect it in the score. That's how Wagner works. The music doesn't follow it's own path. It's totally interconnected with text."

Girard is making the challenge of Sigurd—a five-hour performance—another after a series of immersions with film. In 2001, he was all set to shoot *The Magician's Wife* in Morocco with Geoffrey Rush and Kate Winslet when 9/11 spoiled investors. In

**The forest at Girard's Sigurd is a thicket of dreams and memories**

2003, he was mount of the project with Anthony Hopkins and Winlet, only to have it scuttled by suicide bombings in Casablanca. The same year, he went to China to prepare a war movie, *The Far Road*, and saw the production derailed by the SARS outbreak. "I've had my share of bad luck," says Girard, who now plans to shoot a movie based on the Alexander-Bacon novel *Shik*.

While no movie projects are necessarily available, opera schedules are set in stone years ahead. Girard made his operatic debut directing the COC's unfinished production of *Swan Lake* at the Bolshoi in St. Petersburg's Octoberfest Symphony of Pskov in 1997. Two years ago, he got his chance of the first Ring opera. "It's a dry and a half I focused on 16 hours of music," he recalled. "The main reason I jumped on Sigurd is the opportunity for abstraction. There is a giant dragon, but when you see it... "He steps out of giving it away and simply says, "We took a pretty radical road."

Girard was nervous that star German helden and Wagner worships Christian Fenz—making his COC debut as Sigurd—might not accept his vision. On the contrary, "he totally embraced it," says Girard. In the end, opera comes down to the performers. "There's a rocket quality to the launch," catches Girard. "You go through the driving moments and try to find the trigger points that will affect the trajectory, but it's out of your hands. In film, you can climb a ladder and push a cloud out of the way." ■







### 2014 | Father and son take on Tokyo

A two-time Booker Prize winner, Australian Peter Carey is a distinguished novelist and a devoted father. When his shy 12-year-old son, Charley developed a consuming interest in Japanese samurai legends and anime (cartoons), Carey took him to Tokyo in 2003. And, naturally, he wrote a book about it. *Strong Australia* is a novelist's informative, funny and sometimes all at once...

Given no expert in Japan, says he isn't really relied being corrected by his hosts on his analysis. into never's deeper themes of atomic warfare and lost children. "Although," he pauses, on the phone from his island attic home, "the Japanese are particularly dedicated to the idea that outsiders can't understand them," he even as

A highlight comes when the Gangs meet their first strike-it-went-used-to-describe Japanese lists of all kinds. Yaku, an alias of Minob, tells Gaudin one of Charley's favorite words is *Yaku*, but also an attractive transsexual. The ends their period conversation by discussing a metaphor from her understanding of Western culture. Oshi-ho, she says, is a contrast to the way "pumpkins are brought up thinking that if they take their clothes off they'll all turn into warheads. Do you understand?" Knowing what she has the besties, Gaudin says, "Yes, I do. Thank you!" **SHAM ROCKS**



er decision by the CBC to take a closer look into what makes Quebec tick has created a brazenish reinforcement of the bad old days of the two solitudes. His last stop-through last week, **Nathalie Péloiseau**, an often volatile columnist at *La Presse*, lambasted *As* for, as it were, "downgrading" a weekly cultural show due to pressure on newsworld on Feb. 5. The column conjures up the old language of English Canadian colonialists taking a benign peek into the Québécois ghetto, finding it amusing. At that time, too, *Péloiseau* and **Richard Martineau**, a ubiquitous Montreal media personality, had been approached to be part of the program. But both veiled away when the name of the show's anchor was revealed: **Milosé Gélinas**, a pretty pop star in the late '60s, now a businesswoman, broadcaster and publisher of *Globe* of the day's lifestyle magazine. "We thought we were involved with a serious public affairs program," *Péloiseau* wrote. "Not like the current Angst!" Of course not: the CBC was guarded, and polite. "We certainly regret that journalists attack a show they have not even viewed yet," says **Patricia Ptaszynczyk**, the CBC's regional director. But she shaffer aside to the new show reminds that Quebec, as distinct society, also has "its own clips of politically correct, Quebecese life we like to shoot at outsiders." Still, a new program dedicated to Quebec culture has triggered a bad name, even before day one, says *Ptaszynczyk*. "Had we been on the air, we would have been one of our stories,"

➔ **RUSSELL CROWE** is paying \$1,000/yr. to specialists from his farm to the set of his new Australian movie, *Eccellenza*.

**Emm Gryner |**  
When good  
songs go bad



Swedish singer-songwriter **Kina** Gyller appreciates a good cover song—she's just released a collection of other people's tunes, *Songs of Love and Death*—but she also put a lot of areas that don't work.

1. **Third Eye Girls** (the 1993, by **Suzanne Vega**) **The Robber**. "A nightmare. They're just not happy, Sarin's chemistry, the message, sarcasm and attitude is lost, and this version was recorded in a birth control ad."

2. **Big Yellow Taxi** (1970, **Doris Merande**), by **Cowboy Cop**. "Michelle [Gyller] knew it. I just can't."

Every time I hear it, I get upset," says **American** **Wendie** **Platters**, who, by **Jimmy Krawitz**. "I've heard Queens who fan, and even though the band might have thought it was a big honour and a lot of people really liked it, I can't stand it."



## Jully Black finishes John Intini's sentences

Only Jack's last wish was to sing for some of the biggest names in rock & roll. Now she's center stage in his Toronto production of *You Ain't What You Used to Be*—the story of a rejected blues harmonica player and the women who visit her table—and plans to release her first CD, *This Is Me*, this spring. March 27, recently hired Monterey Assistant Executive John **WELLS**'s sentences

it's a big deal to be in Parliament but singing life is a struggle with him. I grew up on that stuff.

THE WORST THING TO HAPPEN TO ME  
HOP — all the things being, just the over-saturation of markets.

I'D LIKE TO MAKE OVER — I'd like. She was so much more beautiful before the surgery. I'd love to get her back. I got assets from that.

MY PET PEEVE is — people leaving their fingers. I was one of the first date with a guy once and we went out for chicken wings. There was a bowl to wash up in on the table. Did he use it? No! I never called him back.

I CAN'T GO TO SLEEP IN LIES — my TV. It can't. It always wakes up on information—usually the juicier ones.

THE LAST PERSON WHO MADE ME TANGUE TALK — was Tony Caccione. We were in Ottawa looking for the government for more music funding. For a girl from Toronto, you need a punch line.

FOR MORE ON CANTABRIS SENTENCES? VISIT [WWW.CANTABRIS.COM/PEOPLE](http://WWW.CANTABRIS.COM/PEOPLE)

**LAST WEEK,** Oprah's January special drew her highest ratings this season: 15 million. The season premiere of *American Idol* drew a whopping 32.5 million.

## Books | Death of a medieval poet



them to be likely historical events, drawn from the likely mouth of Pharaoh's tombkeeper to the satisfaction of the reviewer. But Terry Jones, who's more concerned with the book's message than with its accuracy, is more skeptical. He calls it "a mediocre, badly written, and badly researched piece of trash" and says it "does not even pretend to be a serious attempt to tell the story of the exodus." Jones is right: the book's sole purpose is to tell the story of the exodus from a Christian point of view. Jones is also right: the book is a thoroughly entertaining and a thought-provoking work of art that we still live through Shakespeare's now-outdated religious and political ideas. Jones is wrong: the book is not a serious attempt to tell the story of the exodus from a Christian point of view. Jones is right: the book is a thoroughly entertaining and a thought-provoking work of art that we still live through Shakespeare's now-outdated religious and political ideas. Jones is wrong: the book is not a serious attempt to tell the story of the exodus from a Christian point of view.

With  
MURDERED  
CHAUCER?  
Terry Jarrell,  
Poet, SAN 9

### Best Sellers

Fiction		LAST WEEK
1	<b>REMAINDER</b> Anne Maes (C) 1	1
2	<b>THE SIX WIVES</b> David Shields (M) 2	2
3	<b>A COMPASSIONATE MURDER</b> Michael Chabon (M) 3	3
4	<b>SKIN OF LION</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 4	4
5	<b>CHANGING</b> Amy LePore (M) 5	5
6	<b>STORM</b> Kate Atwood (M) 6	6
7	<b>THE SIX WIVES</b> David Shields (M) 7	7
8	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 8	8
9	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 9	9
10	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 10	10
11	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 11	11
12	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 12	12
13	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 13	13
14	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 14	14
15	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 15	15
16	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 16	16
17	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 17	17
18	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 18	18
19	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 19	19
20	<b>THE WIND</b> Michael Ondaatje (M) 20	20

Non-fiction	
1. <b>COLLAPSE</b> , Edward (October 13)	E
2. <b>DATA, MODELS AND LAWS</b> , Lydia (October 19)	L
3. <b>CHROMOSOMES</b> , Volker (Oct. 26)	F
4. <b>HOME BY HEAVENS</b> , Peter C. (November 3)	E
5. <b>THE SILENT TAKEOVER</b> , Andrew (November 10)	D
6. <b>PERMANENCE OF THE MOUNTAIN</b> , Peter (November 17)	D
7. <b>SLASH</b> , Matthew (November 24)	E
8. <b>THE HISTORY OF MATHS</b> , Peter (November 30)	D
9. <b>THE ART OF THE NOVEL</b> , Stephen (December 7)	D
10. <b>THE</b> , Peter (December 14)	D



Shanda Deziel | ON PICKING IT FORWARD



## You're killing me with kindness

Do-gooders want to be cool, but those corny public displays are still holding them back

I WAS UNDER the impression that the "Pay It Forward" movement began and ended with that schlocky Kevin Spacey movie back in 2000. So I was surprised, and slightly outraged, to see a certain pay-it-forward-themed toll collector still pulling on the heartstrings of those around me. But, a girl helps a man pick up the earnings he's dropped from his grocery bag. He returns help someone else, who helps a little kid who doesn't something nice for another guy who, wouldn't you know it, ends up getting the last toy at a store to the young woman who started the whole thing. Such manufactured sweetness is more true to pick up the phone and make a long-distance visit to my brother in France, so I guess I'm wise.

Call me naive, but I believe the capacity of the population doesn't need to be regaled with a dose of an inspirational commercial to do things that are second nature—like holding a door open, helping a parent carry a toddler up a set of stairs, or handing out a compliment. Nor do I see a reason for jeering or congratulating ourselves for such acts of decency. But could

one member's reaction to various causes, they certainly are coming from a good place and have wonderful ideas about corporate social responsibility (for example, encouraging companies to let employees volunteer in the community during work hours). But they're also convinced that all individuals need to take up the do-good cause in a very public way.

In that spirit, the crew has committed thousands of acts of random kindness, including roofing the house of a man suffering from arthritis, cooking delicious pancake breakfast for commuters, and cleaning dorm rooms. Those are admirable deeds, and the guys say they expect nothing in return. But they sort of do—they are hand-selling kindness and recruiting people to their pyramid scheme of giving. How is that to convert others with capitalistic life? Just give compassion into action. "Overcome our ailments," they give new meaning to global warming—"not to mention the title of this bestselling book, *Good to Be Kind*."

Berniey Kindness Crew endorsed acts—like hugging strangers on the street, giving shoul-

der hugs to colleagues, serving up a complimentary funnel cake at work, where managers and co-workers greet each other. Monday morning with applause and a few nice words—are derby, not to mention an imposition of personal at work. When asked about people messaging each other on Facebook, director John Wu said it was "I don't like to be touched as a non sexual manner." New chat's cool. ■

"I think as a lot of ways the world is a pretty grim place," says Val Crivna, a member of the Victoria-based Kindness Crew—a group of four handouts, about 25- to 28-year-old guys who travel the country doing nice things for others. Inspired by 9/11 and the death of



To commercialize kindness, @kindnesscrews.com



## Homes | Your sea pod or mine?

If you think rock-scaled coasters or glass-bottom boats are as good as it gets, this might be for you: the Triton BE Floating Home, an environmentally friendly six-person floating house, looks like a semi-submerged air-tight cabin pod with an underwater observation for a basement. The pod hooks up to a basement, so enthusiasts can transform entire basins into floating colonies. The brainchild of Italian architect Giancarlo Piretti, the Triton ranges from 10,000 to 20,000 dollars and the prototype will be unveiled later this year. Start checking these sea legs. **KAREN MARLEY**



## Wine | Be an instant expert

Not sure if the infamous Hungarian dish is what you're looking for? Christmas is a wine-giver in a hidden twist: a new wine review repository, [www.winepod.com](http://www.winepod.com), could point you in the right direction. "This is a place where people who want to learn more can," says co-founder and Toronto-based Gary Leach. "Even if that specific wine isn't mentioned, you'll know more about what are good grapes and so good values." The site gathers independent reviews from newspapers, magazines and blogs around the world—the database is still growing, but the bookmark feature is handy. Though if grandma's bottle was a screwtop, it's probably better not to know. **LM**

## Money's Worth | iPod speakers

Portable music finds a home

Nearly 4.6 million iPod players were sold this past holiday season, so it's no surprise that others are aiming to catch on Apple's moment of cool. The growing list of accessories includes everything from elegant carrying cases to how-to guides. Now, audio equipment manufacturers, eager to how some iPod owners not only pump tunes while on the go but use the players to manage their music libraries, have introduced specialized speakers to create small stereo setups for small spaces. Richard Bowden, director of Sales at New River Audio in Toronto, suggests consumers decide which feature is most important—portability, power source, the ability to dock the iPod into the dock—and listen to a variety of models before purchasing. We tested four systems to determine which is music to our ears. **ROBEA CHEZKI**

MUSIC LIVING INNOVATION PRICE: \$179	TRIVIAL PUP PRICE: \$119	ROSE SOUNDPOOD PRICE: \$99	KL ON TUNE PRICE: \$179
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### DESIGN

Would blend in with the iPods and On Tunes, but light enough for moving between rooms and small enough to store on a kitchen counter.

Doesn't look like a speaker. Based on system designed by audio pioneer Henry Kloss.

First impression was that it will make my friends envious. A vintage system for the serious listener.

Stark, contemporary look. Looks more like a computer accessory than audio equipment.

### PORTABILITY

For its only compact, easy-to-transport unit.

A little more bulky than the iPods and On Tunes, but light enough for moving between rooms and small enough to store on a kitchen counter.

Heavy construction means it's the least portable of the group. Once you had a home for it, leave it there.

Small. Lightweight. Sliding cover protects speakers from damage during transport.

### SOUND QUALITY

Identified when playing music with lots of bass, great clear sound of the vocal.

Decent, clear, but not detailed. The further the speaker is from the iPod, the more it sounds like a radio.

In a lounge or in a room, the speakers are happy with it as their stereo is a vintage. Clear even at high volume.

Clear, but too light on the low end. No bass or high volume.

### FEATURES

Optional power source—five finger clips with an MP3 player. Switches to a rechargeable internal battery pack.

AM/FM tuner. Compatible with any MP3 player. Switches to a rechargeable internal battery pack.

Remote control. Docking cradle. iPod to charge while playing music. Compatible with all iPods, although the one-shuffle doesn't fit in the dock.

Power source: battery. Docking cradle. iPod to charge while playing music. Compatible with all MP3 players.

### RATING

★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★★

★★★★



For past Money's Worth product test drives, go to [www.moneytrends.com/moneyworth](http://www.moneytrends.com/moneyworth)

## What's in Store

Veteran MP3 player maker Creative Technology takes another run at the iPod with the Zen Micro Photo. The eight-inch device can hold up to an 8GB worth of images and music, and boasts a 1.3-inch removable battery, an iPod reader and color screen. Available in Canada this summer. 035299 to 035349



OUR PICK: Soundpood beats the look of the Trivial and seems sturdy. It's better portability in addition to good listening.

**TIP:** For a better sound quality, connect the speakers to the iPod via the audio cable, not the dock.



## QUICK—MAKE A DECISION

A new book endorses jumping to conclusions. The PM should read it.

**HERE'S A BOOK** that says your first instinct is often your best. That you don't necessarily know more after months of study than you know after two seconds. The endless meetings and stacks of studies can actually make decisions worse.

I'm kind of hoping the Prime Minister reads it.

Melvin Gladwell, the frisky-headed intellectual maverick who grew up in Canada and writes much of what's worth reading in *The New Yorker*, has penned *Blahk: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*. In a way it's too bad he chose that title, because now July

Sgt. can't use it for her autobiography. Ha! Cheap joke. But the good news is that Gladwell has written a fun book with a provocative and not at all trivial premise.

*Blahk* is a heavy endorsement of jumping to conclusions. "We think that we are always better off gathering as much information as possible and spending as much time as possible in deliberation," Gladwell writes. "But that's a lie. There are moments—particularly in times of stress—when having done too much to wait, when our snap judgments and first impressions offer a much better means of making sense of the world."

Many fascinating anecdotes ensue.

It turns out that students who watch two seconds of silent video of a teacher they've never met will reach the same conclusions about the teacher's effectiveness as students who've been watching the teacher for a whole semester. Gladwell tracks down a University of Washington psychologist who can tell, based on a few minutes of overhead restaurant chatter, whether the couple at the next table is headed for bliss or divorce.

Gladwell acknowledges that snap judgments can go badly wrong. He recounts the seven seconds of misjudgment that led four New York police officers to fire 41 shots at an innocent Guinean immigrant, Amadou Diallo.

But the highlight of the book is the chapter about Paul Van Ripper, a retired lieutenant general from the U.S. Marines who



was brought back to play the enemy commander in an exercise set of war games in 2002. Van Ripper's opponents, playing the entire U.S. military, had their databases and resources and methodologies for systematically understanding the intentions and capabilities of the enemy—the Ripper was playing the compromised national chairman, and all he had was wit and wit. On the second day of the "war," Van Ripper was forced to kill 16 American ships, inflicting 28,000 virtual casualties.

"It had to be said that Van Ripper had all these long discussions," Van Ripper says about his hapless legions of opponents. "They were trying to decide what the political situation was like. They had charts with up arrows and down arrows. I remember thinking, 'What a mistake. You were doing that while you were fighting!'"

Here's where Paul Martin comes in. The new Ontario-like the spiritual headquarters

of Van Ripper's Blue Team face. The capital is a sea of charts. It is forests of up and down arrows. And just about everybody is trying to decide what the political situation is like. Despite it all, Martin's armies are losing in a war to the floor-floored legions of chance and the moment.

It is not at all unusual to hear of cabinet ministers being called to five-hour or even seven-hour meetings. The only certainty is that such meetings will end with plans for more meetings. The foreign policy review, originally scheduled for last autumn, waits for the boss to pause from doing foreign policy long enough to release the report. The Senate is enacting a good thing, perhaps, except that it is no plan at all, only the big guy's authority to pick some senators. Even things that look like decisions—like Judy Sgro's departure from cabinet—are, in fact, decisions. "She decided that she wanted to step down."

Greenhouse gas? "If you have an objective it's absolutely crucial that you lay out a clear plan to achieve it," Martin said about the Kyoto accord in 2003. He still has the objective. He still has no plan.

And yet I'm not entirely sure the PM would be doing better if he trusted his gut. It seems to have been his gut that told him Jean Lapierre was the key to understanding, and being understood in, Quebec. That's a pretty bad omen.

Really, Ottawa's seen plenty of politicians who trust their gut, to the damage of all around them. Once upon a time we had Rodolphe Dey, today it's Jack Layton. The two have little except an unshakable fondness for whatever pops into their heads.

Perhaps the lesson for politicians is that they should trust their instincts if they have instincts worth trusting. The problem is, if you're wrong about that, you'll be wrong about most things.

(A comment: backpage@redsox.ca  
Paul Wells is a writer. "Inkless Wells,"  
at [www.melvin.com.au/paulwells](http://www.melvin.com.au/paulwells)

*I am Julie*

*Last vacation was the first time I ever dared to wear a bikini!*



**What would you do with a few pounds less?**

I tried and tried to lose weight on my own for so long. Then a friend of work told me there are medical weight loss treatments available and said I should go and see my doctor. I'm glad I did — my doctor was fantastic. If you want to start losing weight, you should ask your own doctor.

**Ask your doctor about Julie's story.**

MEDICAL TREATMENT OPTIONS AVAILABLE

200 horsepower i-VTEC engine. Four-wheel independent suspension. VSA with traction control. All the tools you need to find yourself in very select company. With an available bilingual voice recognition navigation system just in case you want to come back.



WHAT OBJECTS IN MIRROR?

**TSX**

 **ACURA**